Japanese Language Surrender "War Weekly"
Courtesy of 'Tony" Ramsay

This is an original one of many thousands of leaflets which were periodically dropped by Allied aircraft to Japanese occupied areas of the South Pacific, including Japanese towns and cities, in the closing months of the war. These leaflets, called "War Weekly", were intended to persuade the Japanese population, that is the armed forces, the civilians and the government, that immediate surrender must be in the best interests of the Japanese nation. This particular leaflet is dated May 15 1945.

The translation which follows has been provided by Dr Dave Douglas, an American living in Chichibu Japan, per courtesy of Matthew Stevens of Thornleigh NSW. A brief explanation of theJapanese characters is given by George Stevens as follows.

Firstly the characters are read commencing in the right hand column, from top to bottom, progressing across to the finish in the left hand column. The characters are a combination of the 3 Japanese writing styles. One is Kanji which is the 4th century AD Japanese adaptation of the ancient Chinese characters. Prior to the 4th century AD, the Japanese did not have a written language. The second is Hiragana which is a supplementary written language used in a manner similar to the Roman alphabet, and where the Kanji is inadequate for comprehensible description. For a particular Japanese verbal word where there are no Kanji to express the meaning, the Hiragana symbols, when grouped together and sounded verbally, convey that meaning, just like a group of English letters are used to express an English word. Hiragana symbols are round/cursive in form. The third is Katakana which is an adaptation of Hiragana, in straight/rectangular form, and developed specifically to express foreign words, thus not 'contaminating' the strictly Japanese symbols of Kanji and Hiragana.

Following are the main items in summary:

*New government installed in Germany. Allied forces now converging on the Pacific theatre. Allied air offensive to focus on the Japanese mainland. Okinawa under attack. Offensive on Burma. Offensive on Talakan, and fall of Uewaku . (See author's note 1 below.)
* The Nazi Third Reich has fallen and been replaced with an interim government
* With the Nazi threat now eliminated, Allied forces are converging on the Pacific. The European Allies are focussing on Burma and the American forces are focussing on Guam & Saipan.
* On May 11, the Americans launched air raids on key Japanese installations including the Tokuyama Base (See author's note 2 below), using 2,500 both small and large bombs.
* In the Allied attack on Naha, about 90,000 Japanese troops were slaughtered.
* The British 14th Division is advancing from Thailand to Nyangukashe.

* The Australian Army at Talakan are making north after securing the Junta oilfield. The runway at Balikpapan is heavily cratered after a massive Allied air bombardment.
* On May 13, the last Japanese stronghold of Uewaku was taken in a counterattack by Australian forces. The Japanese took heavy casualties.

Author's note 1. Talakan in English is Tarakan, a city on the north east coast of Borneo, and the scene of much bloody fighting in 1944/45. Uewaku is more likely Wewak in New Guinea.

Author's note 2. South west on Honshu Island, near to Hiroshima

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